

# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Kalamazoo 49008

[www.wmich.edu](http://www.wmich.edu)



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JOHN M. DUNN, President

**Western Michigan University** is a learner-centered, discovery-driven and globally engaged national university with a small-college feel. WMU was founded in 1903 as a teacher-preparation school and has grown to become one of Michigan's five Carnegie-designated research universities. It builds intellectual inquiry, investigation, and discovery into its academic programs, yet remains focused on providing personal attention and preparing both undergraduate and graduate students for success in work as well as life.

**Recognition:** WMU is nationally recognized and internationally engaged.

- The Carnegie Foundation classifies WMU among the nation's 147 public research universities.
- *U.S. News & World Report* has named WMU among the country's "best national universities" each year since 1991.
- *The Princeton Review* includes WMU on its annual online list of the Best Midwestern Colleges.
- Phi Beta Kappa, America's premier honor society, has granted chapters to just 100 public institutions, including WMU.
- *Military Times' EDGE* magazine has ranked WMU on its annual "Best for Vets" list of higher education institutions in each year since 2009, making WMU the only Michigan school to make the list for five consecutive years.
- *G.I. Jobs* places WMU among the top 15 percent of colleges for vets, and WMU continues to be listed among the "military friendly" schools compiled by *Military Advanced Education*.
- Recognized nationally for its leadership in campus sustainability, WMU has been most recently lauded as the top higher education institution in the U.S. Green Building Council's Green Schools awards program and was named by Second Nature as a 2014 Climate Leadership award winner.
- WMU constructed the nation's first higher education building to receive gold-level certification for meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) standards, and by the end of 2016, it expects to have more than 20 LEED-certified buildings.

**Size and scope:** WMU enrolls 24,000 students. Its campuses encompass more than 1,200 acres and 150 buildings, and feature some of the finest instructional and performance spaces in the Midwest. All University property — inside and out — became tobacco free in 2014. WMU also is noted for having the second leanest administrative staffing levels of any of Michigan's 15 public universities.

The main campus is located close to downtown Kalamazoo and includes a growing Oakland Drive Campus that has become a hub for health and human services programs and direct-service clinics that play a critical role in a new private medical school. WMU's highly rated engineering college and thriving Business Technology and Research Park are based three miles away at the Parkview Campus, while its nationally known aviation college is based at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Michigan. Both the aviation campus and BTR Park are components of two Michigan Smart Zones.

WMU has long met the state's regional needs for higher education and career development programs, and continues to serve thousands of Michigan residents annually through its Online and Lifelong Learning offices, as well as regional locations in Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, metro Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon, and Traverse City.

**Academic programs:** The university continues to innovate, offering new cutting-edge programs in response to state and national needs. One new example is the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, a private medical school at a public university that enrolled its first class for fall 2014 and is among the nation's first to base its curriculum on a 21st-century paradigm of medical education. A second new professional education affiliation in 2014 created the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, a private school that shares the University's mission of access and opportunity and operates in four locations in Michigan and Florida. Beginning in fall 2015, first-year law classes are also slated for the WMU main campus in Kalamazoo.

WMU shapes its academic programs so that its graduates are immediately ready to add value to their workplaces and communities. Degrees are granted through seven colleges: Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Haworth College of Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services. In addition, the Lee Honors College serves as an intimate home for 1,800 of the exceptionally talented undergraduates WMU attracts, while the Graduate College assists more than 5,000 students pursuing advanced degrees.

WMU offers the second largest number of undergraduate majors of any public university in Michigan. Students may choose from 251 programs — 147 at the bachelor's level, 73 at the master's level, and 30 at the doctoral level. Many of these offerings are nationally or internationally recognized, such as those in accountancy, aviation, blindness and low-vision studies, creative writing, education, experimental atomic physics, evaluation, graph theory, jazz studies, medieval studies, paper science, and the performing arts.

**Faculty:** The university's faculty is comprised of 934 full-time members, 532 part-time instructors, and 810 graduate assistants and doctoral associates. These scholars are dedicated to providing quality teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, advancing the university's public service mission, and creating knowledge, as well as putting it to work in daily life.

Despite its size and complexity, WMU has a 17-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, and two-thirds of undergraduate classes have 30 or fewer students. Additionally, full-time professors teach most undergraduate as well as graduate classes, and undergrads have ample opportunities to work closely with faculty researchers and artists.

**Student support:** WMU creates an environment for its students that is both challenging and supportive and one that provides wide-ranging opportunity. A variety of resources and services focus on the academic and career success of students, and several offices are dedicated to meeting the special needs of such select groups as first-year students, transfer students, military veterans and undergrads who are undecided about their majors.

The university operates 19 residence halls, six dining facilities, six campus cafés, four apartment-style complexes and one residential complex. The residence halls offer various financial discounts and provide a network of educational communities that engage students in learning and personal development. The apartments offer a more independent, on-campus living arrangement preferred by undergrads who previously lived in a residence hall and still want the convenience of living on campus. Such housing also is appealing to students who have families, come from overseas or are studying at the graduate level.

WMU also recognizes that college is a time for students to have fun and develop their individual skills and interests. Educational, social, and recreational opportunities abound through hundreds of student organizations, fraternities and sororities, professional groups, intramural and club sports, and fitness and wellness programs. The university also has nationally recognized arts programs, a lively cultural calendar, and 16 NCAA Division I, Football Bowl Subdivision teams in the Mid-American Conference and the National Collegiate Hockey Conference.

**International perspective and diversity:** The University is home to a diverse, culturally rich student body that includes more than 1,800 international students from 100 other countries. Minority students are also well represented, making up nearly 21 percent of the student body, while graduate students account for almost 21 percent of the student body as well. Some 88 percent of all students are Michigan residents.

WMU infuses the campus-learning environment with a global perspective. It offers scores of study abroad programs in some two dozen countries and access to overseas study opportunities in almost every other country through linkages with universities and organizations around the world. On campus, WMU is home to several international study centers, a variety of international and foreign-language programs, and a fully accredited intensive English language program for international students.

**Research:** WMU researchers are advancing knowledge across the state and around the globe. A growing amount of their funded research is the product of partnerships with business, industry, and government in areas such as nanotechnology, homeland security, and the life sciences. These collaborations enhance classroom instruction and career opportunities for students, as well as foster economic development in Michigan while building the state's 21st-century knowledge base.

During recent years, WMU has focused on supporting life science research and commercialization in a way that has helped launch more than 30 startup companies that have brought some 225 high-paying technical jobs to Michigan.

**Cost:** WMU's relatively low cost ([www.wmich.edu/registrar/tuition](http://www.wmich.edu/registrar/tuition)) makes it one of the best higher-education values in Michigan. The university ranks ninth in tuition and fees among the state's 15 public universities, yet is one of the five universities in the state to have earned the Carnegie Foundation's research designation.

WMU awards some \$270 million annually in financial aid, offers one of the largest merit-based scholarship programs at a public university in the United States, and regularly introduces initiatives to keep its costs low and offer opportunity to underrepresented populations. One such initiative is the Seita Scholars Program, which annually supports up to 160 young people who have aged out of foster care with full-tuition scholarships, a year-round place to live, and a coaching network to support both personal growth and academic success.

<i>Credit Enrollment (fall head count)</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
On-campus . . . . .	22,443	22,137	21,750
Regional sites and online education . . . . .	5,127	5,071	5,684